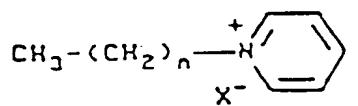


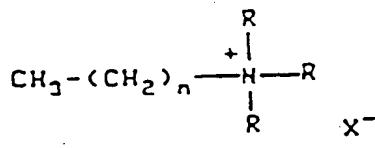
10 minutes to prevent the growth of microorganisms other than *Salmonella* on said meat product, wherein said quaternary ammonium compound is selected from the group consisting of an alkylpyridinium salt represented by the structural formula (I):



(I)

wherein n is 9-21, and X is a halide;

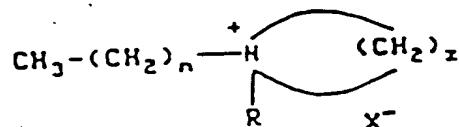
a tetra-alkylammonium salt represented by the structural formula (II):



(II)

wherein n is 9-21, and R is selected from the group consisting of CH_3 and C_2H_5 , and X is a halide; and

an alkylalicyclic ammonium salt represent by the structural formula (III):



(III)

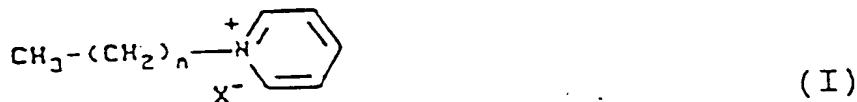
wherein n is 9-21, Z is 4-5, R is selected from the group consisting of CH_3 and C_2H_5 , and X is a halide.

6. (Once amended) The method of Claim [5] 1, wherein said quaternary ammonium compound is an alkylpyridinium salt.

7. (Once amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein said alkylpyridinium salt is cetylpyridinium chloride.

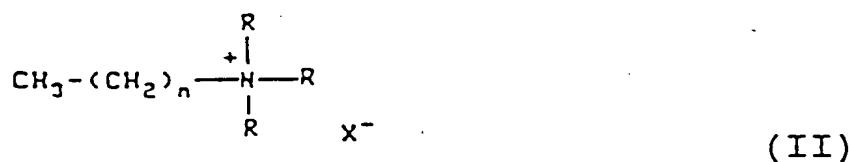
14. (Once amended) A method for preventing the growth of microorganisms on seafood, vegetables or fruit products comprising:

contacting said seafood, vegetables, or fruit products with a microbial growth inhibiting effective amount of a quaternary ammonium compound for a sufficient period of time to prevent the growth of microorganisms on said seafood, vegetables, or fruit products, wherein said quaternary ammonium compound is selected from the group consisting of an alkylpyridinium salt represented by the structural formula (I):



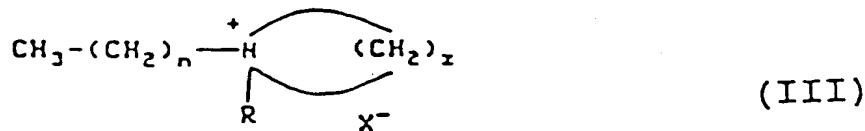
wherein n is 9-21, and X is a halide;

a tetra-alkylammonium salt represented by the structural formula (II):



wherein n is 9-21, and R is selected from the group consisting of CH₃ and C₂H₅, and X is a halide; and

an alkylalicyclic ammonium salt represent by the structural formula (III):



wherein n is 9-21, Z is 4-5, R is selected from the group consisting of CH₃ and C₂H₅, and X is a halide.

19. (Once amended) The method of Claim [18] 14, wherein said quaternary ammonium compound is an alkylpyridinium salt.

20. (Once amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said alkylpyridinium salt is cetylpyridinium chloride.

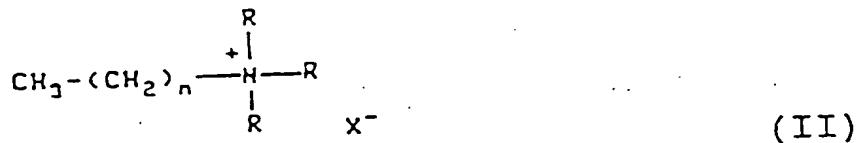
32. (Once amended) A method for preventing the growth of a pathogenic toxin-producing Escherichia on meat products comprising:

contacting said meat product with a microbial growth inhibiting effective amount of a quaternary ammonium compound for a sufficient period of time to prevent the growth of a pathogenic toxin-producing Escherichia on said meat product, wherein said quaternary ammonium compound is selected from the group consisting of an alkylpyridinium salt represented by the structural formula (I):



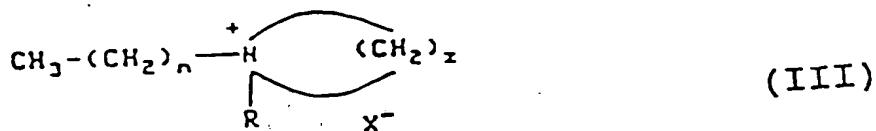
wherein n is 9-21, and X is a halide;

a tetra-alkylammonium salt represented by the structural formula (II):



wherein n is 9-21, and R is selected from the group consisting of CH₃ and C₂H₅, and X is a halide; and

an alkylalicyclic ammonium salt represent by the structural formula (III):



wherein n is 9-21, Z is 4-5, R is selected from the group consisting of CH₃ and C₂H₅, and X is a halide.

34. (Once amended) The method of Claim [33] 32, wherein said pathogenic toxin-producing *Escherichia* is *Escherichia coli* O157:H7.